

October 15, 1997

David Werdegarr, MD, MPH, Director  
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
Health Policy and Planning Division  
1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Werdegarr,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the results of the OSHPD heart attack outcomes study. After careful review of the information, as well as review of the medical records, we have identified some areas of concern.

On every medical record that was reviewed, it was determined that the severity of illness codes, which did affect the risk of adjusted mortality rate, had not been coded on each case. Missing codes included: pulmonary edema (PULEDEMI), paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia (PVENTACI), coma (COMAI), complete atrioventricular block (COATRBLI), congestive heart failure (CHFB), hypertension (HTB), and shock (SHOCKI).

The Medical Records Department has modified its data abstraction process to also include information that would support the severity of illness of our patients. We will also be reviewing the information provided in this study in greater detail with the ICU/Medicine Committee and the Quality Improvement Committee.

Please let us know if we can provide further information.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Martinsen  
President & CEO

cc: Richard Stennes, M.D., Chief of Staff  
June Beaumont, Director, Clinical Information & Quality